

Minutes
Woodstock Agriculture Commission
Monday, December 8, 2014 - 1:00 PM - Woodstock Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Members: R. Seybolt, R. Norman, S. Morse, D. Young, L. Weaver. Alternate: P. Miller, L. Auger

I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by R. Seybolt at 1:03 p.m.

II. Public Participation: N/A

III. Minutes of the November meeting: R. Norman moved to accept the minutes and R. Seybolt seconded. Voted and approved.

IV. Old Business:

- a. WINY Farmer Talks – After December talk, S. Morse will get more dates from Gary Osbrey for early 2015. He spoke with John Guskowski for suggestions and he suggested alpacas (within Windham County).
- b. Schools & Business Buy Local List – Members discussed the draft letter prepared by S. Morse, made suggestions for changes/clarifications. **Action:** S. Morse to make changes for next meeting and mail to all schools. L. Auger to email to all our lists, including the Woodstock Business Association.
- c. POCD – R. Seybolt attended meeting and discovered that the P&Z members had not seen our submission for inclusion in the POCD. It was submitted in 2012 and was inadvertently overlooked. They asked for WAGC to submit an update; boiling down the original to a 1 page highlight. After much discussion and input, L. Weaver volunteered to create the document in time for the P&Z December 18th meeting.
- d. Accessory Apartment Regulations – R. Seybolt wrote a letter to the P&Z regarding concerns about the proposed regulations in terms of labor housing. The response when discussing this proposal was that they had not thought of it in relation to agricultural needs. They will do so in the next couple of months. **Action:** P. Miller to research State regulations.
- e. WAGC Contact information – L. Auger will submit final document at January meeting.

V. New Business:

- a. Advocate – R. Seybolt reported that the grant has expired for the Advocate position, however, John Guskowski said he would stay on as a volunteer.
- b. Town Meeting Re: Logging – Discussion regarding how some members had heard there was a meeting and some had not and how because of that, we had not had an opportunity to discuss the subject prior to the meeting.
- c. Town Owned Land – After discussion on the subject, it was decided that we needed to discuss our involvement with town owned land. **Action:** S. Morse has the survey and R. Seybolt to get the lists for us to check for prime soils.

VI. Other-

- a. L. Auger showed several articles that had been in recent Sunday Courant editions, commenting on how many articles we now see on the subject of farming that we didn't see just a few years ago.
- b. It was suggested that we invite someone from Tufts to a future meeting.

VII. The meeting was adjourned by R. Seybolt at 2:30pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 1pm in the lower level of the conference room of the Town Hall.